

Amendments to the claims

1. (original): A conveyor belt module comprising:

a module body extending longitudinally from a first end to a second end, laterally from a first side edge to a second side edge, and in thickness from a top side to a bottom side, the module body comprising:

a first set of hinge eyes spaced apart laterally along the first end;

a second set of hinge eyes spaced apart laterally along the second end;

a flat surface on the top side;

a plurality of laterally spaced longitudinal ribs including a solid elongated base extending outward of the flat surface and textured upper ridge structure atop the base to support conveyed articles.

2. (original): A conveyor belt module as in claim 1 wherein the textured upper ridge structure comprises a longitudinal row of truncated rectangular pyramids.

3. (original): A conveyor belt module as in claim 1 wherein the textured upper ridge structure comprises a longitudinal row of truncated cones.

4. (original): A conveyor belt module as in claim 1 wherein the textured upper ridge structure comprises a longitudinal row of teeth.

5. (original): A conveyor belt module as in claim 4 wherein the textured upper ridge structure of each rib comprises two longitudinal rows of teeth separated laterally by a longitudinal groove.

6. (original): A conveyor belt module as in claim 1 wherein the textured upper ridge structure comprises a longitudinal row of alternating crests and valleys.

7. (original): A conveyor belt module as in claim 6 wherein the crests and valleys are aligned along axes oblique to the longitudinal direction of the rib.
8. (original): A conveyor belt module as in claim 1 wherein the textured upper ridge structure comprises a longitudinal row of corrugations.
9. (original): A conveyor belt module as in claim 1 wherein the textured upper ridge structure comprises a sinuous bead upstanding from the base.
10. (original): A modular conveyor belt comprising a plurality of conveyor belt modules as in claim 1 connected together edge to edge and end to end into a series of consecutive rows of belt modules interconnected by hinge rods received in lateral passageways formed in the aligned hinge eyes of consecutive rows of belt modules.
11. (currently amended): A conveyor belt module comprising:
 - a module body extending longitudinally from a first end to a second end, laterally from a first side edge to a second side edge, and in thickness from a top side to a bottom side, the module body comprising:
 - a first set of hinge eyes spaced apart laterally along the first end;
 - a second set of hinge eyes spaced apart laterally along the second end;
 - a flat surface on the top side;
 - a plurality of longitudinal rows of truncated rectangular pyramids extending outwardly of the flat surface and defining notches between consecutive pyramids in each row,
 - wherein each row is spaced laterally from another row to form a longitudinal slot between consecutive rows,
 - wherein the longitudinal dimension of the notches is less than the lateral dimension of the slots between consecutive rows.

12. (original): A conveyor belt module as in claim 11 wherein the lateral dimension of the slots is at least as great as the lateral dimension of the pyramids.
13. (original): A conveyor belt module as in claim 11 wherein the total number of hinge eyes in the first and second sets equals the number of longitudinal rows.
14. (original): A conveyor belt module as in claim 11 wherein the hinge eyes include a top portion coplanar with the flat surface and wherein one of the pyramids in each row extends from the top portion of a hinge eye.
15. (original): A conveyor belt module as in claim 11 wherein each truncated rectangular pyramid has a rectangular base and a rectangular top face.
16. (original): A conveyor belt module as in claim 15 wherein the area of the rectangular top face of each pyramid is less than the area of the rectangular base.
17. (canceled)
18. (canceled)
19. (original): A conveyor belt module as in claim 17 wherein the notches are V-shaped.
20. (original): A conveyor belt module as in claim 17 wherein at least some of the notches of one row are generally aligned laterally with notches of the other rows to form a lateral line of sight through the aligned notches from the first side edge of the module body to the second side edge.
21. (original): A modular conveyor belt comprising a plurality of conveyor belt modules as in claim 11 connected together edge to edge and end to end into a series of consecutive rows of belt modules interconnected by hinge rods received in lateral passageways formed in the aligned hinge eyes of consecutive rows of belt modules.
22. (original): A conveyor belt module comprising:

a module body extending longitudinally from a first end to a second end, laterally from a first side edge to a second side edge, and in thickness from a top side to a bottom side, the module body comprising:

a first set of hinge eyes spaced apart laterally along the first end;

a second set of hinge eyes spaced apart laterally along the second end;

a flat surface on the top side;

a plurality of laterally spaced longitudinal ribs extending outwardly of the flat surface and having laterally spaced first and second side walls,

wherein each rib is characterized by longitudinally spaced notches extending through the rib from the first side wall to the second side wall.

23. (original): A conveyor belt module as in claim 22 wherein each rib is further characterized by a longitudinal groove extending the length of the rib between the first side wall and the second side wall.

24. (original): A conveyor belt module as in claim 22 wherein the total number of hinge eyes in the first and second sets equals the number of longitudinal ribs.

25. (original): A conveyor belt module as in claim 22 wherein the hinge eyes include a top portion coplanar with the flat surface and wherein each rib extends onto the top portion of a hinge eye.

26. (original): A conveyor belt module as in claim 22 wherein each rib defines a plurality of teeth separated by the notches.

27. (original): A conveyor belt module as in claim 26 wherein each tooth forms a truncated rectangular pyramid.

28. (original): A conveyor belt module as in claim 22 wherein the notches are V-shaped.

29. (original): A conveyor belt module as in claim 28 wherein the vertices of the V-shaped notches are disposed slightly above the flat surface on the top side of the module body.
30. (original): A conveyor belt module as in claim 22 wherein at least some of the notches of one rib are generally aligned laterally with notches of the other ribs to form a lateral line of sight through the aligned notches from the first side edge of the module body to the second side edge.
31. (original): A modular conveyor belt comprising a plurality of conveyor belt modules as in claim 22 connected together edge to edge and end to end into a series of consecutive rows of belt modules interconnected by hinge rods received in lateral passageways formed in the aligned hinge eyes of consecutive rows of belt modules.
32. (currently amended): A conveyor belt module comprising:
a module body extending longitudinally from a first end to a second end, laterally from a first side edge to a second side edge, and in thickness from a top side to a bottom side, the module body comprising:
a first set of hinge eyes spaced apart laterally at the first end;
a second set of hinge eyes spaced apart laterally at the second end;
a plurality of teeth arranged at the top side into a plurality of longitudinal rows of teeth separated by longitudinal slots extending outwardly at longitudinally along the top side,
wherein each tooth defines with a consecutive tooth on a row a notch that separates the consecutive teeth longitudinally, and
wherein the longitudinal dimension of the notches is less than the lateral dimension of the slots.

33. (original): A conveyor belt module as in claim 32 wherein the total number of hinge eyes in the first and second sets equals the number of longitudinal rows of teeth.
34. (original): A conveyor belt module as in claim 32 further comprising a flat surface at the top side of the module and wherein the hinge eyes include a top portion coplanar with the flat surface and wherein one of the teeth in each row extends from the top portion of a hinge eye.
35. (original): A conveyor belt module as in claim 32 wherein each tooth is in the form of a rectangular pyramid.
36. (original): A conveyor belt module as in claim 32 wherein each tooth includes a rectangular base at the bottom and a flat top face.
37. (original): A conveyor belt module as in claim 36 wherein the area of the top face is less than the area of the rectangular base.
38. (original): A conveyor belt module as in claim 32 wherein each tooth has a base at the bottom and an opposite top face and, between the base and the top face, a pair of opposite side walls laterally spaced from each other and a front wall and an opposite rear wall longitudinally spaced from each other.
39. (original): A conveyor belt as in claim 38 wherein each of the side walls, the front wall, and the rear wall tapers toward its opposite wall with distance from the base.
40. (canceled)
41. (canceled)
42. (original): A conveyor belt module as in claim 32 wherein the notches are V-shaped.
43. (original): A conveyor belt module as in claim 32 wherein at least some of the notches of one row are generally aligned laterally with notches of the other rows to form a lateral line of

sight through the aligned notches from the first side edge of the module body to the second side edge.

44. (original): A modular conveyor belt comprising a plurality of conveyor belt modules as in claim 32 connected together edge to edge and end to end into a series of consecutive rows of belt modules interconnected by hinge rods received in lateral passageways formed in the aligned hinge eyes of consecutive rows of belt modules.